

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ID, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN FONMIN VISITS INDONESIA

REF: NEW DELHI 10416

1. INDIAN FONMIN Y. B. CHAVAN ARRIVED IN JAKARTA JULY 20 ON FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT FOR ANNUAL INDONESIAN-INDIAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONSULTATIONS. CHAVAN HAD ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO JULY 21 ON MATTERS RELATED TO UP-COMING NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING IN COLOMBO, BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND VARIOUS SOUTHEAST ASIAN ISSUES. CHAVAN AND FONMIN ADAM MALIK FLEW TO BALI JULY 22 TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS, AND CHAVAN VISITED JOGJAKARTA BRIEFLY BEFORE RETURNING TO NEW DELHI JULY 24. HE TOLD NEWSMEN PRIOR TO DEPARTURE THAT HE CONSIDERED INDONESIAN ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA QUITE IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING STABILITY AND PEACE IN THAT REGION. ASKED ABOUT EAST TIMOR, HE POINTED OUT THAT EAST TIMOR IS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF INDONESIA. CHAVAN SAID HE AND MALIK DID NOT DISCUSS DETAILED TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MUTUAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUT REVIEWED IT IN GENERAL TERMS.

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2. IN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF CONSULTATIONS, CHAVAN AND MALIK HAILED REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAM AND WERE CONVINCED THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE, STABILITY AND COOPERATION IN REGION. MALIK OFFICIALLY INFORMED CHAVAN THAT QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENUINE ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR, AND CHAVAN NOTED THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT LED TO SOLUTION OF PROBLEM. STATEMENT CALLED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND RESTORATION OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, EXPRESSED CONTINUING OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA, EXPRESSED FIRM SUPPORT FOR PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA, AND REITERATED DEEP COMMITMENT OF BOTH INDIA AND INDONESIA TO POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. CHAVAN WELCOMED SUCCESS OF ASEAN SUMMIT AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ASEAN'S EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. STATEMENT NOTED INDIA LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF TIES WITH ASEAN INCLUDING ECONOMIC COOPERATION. CHAVAN AND MALIK EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD REALIZATION OF ZONE OF PEACE IN INDIAN OCEAN, CALLED UPON GREAT POWERS TO ACT WITH DUE RESTRAINT, AND HOPED THAT STEPS DETRIMENTAL TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION WILL BE AVOIDED. TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS ALSO EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT PROGRESS IN MUTUAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND WERE CONVINCED THIS WOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED AND STRENGTHENED.

3. PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS MODERATE BUT SUFFERED IN COMPARISON WITH EXCITEMENT OVER VISIT THE WEEK BEFORE BY VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FONMIN. IN ONLY MAJOR EDITORIAL REFERENCE TO VISIT, KOMPAS JULY 23 NOTED INDIA NOW HAD REDUCED COMPLEX OF SELF-IMPORTANCE WHICH GIVES IMPRESSION OF ARROGANCE, AND COMMENTED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA WERE DEVELOPING WELL. KOMPAS SUGGESTED COOPERATION SHOULD BE BOLSTERED BY FOCUSING ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. TURNING TO POLITICAL ISSUES, PAPER OBSERVED THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT INDONESIA, LIKE INDIA, REMAINS NON-ALIGNED, AND ADDED THAT IT IS NOT TRUE THAT ONLY GENUINE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ARE THOSE WHICH ARE INCLINED TOWARD SOVIETS AND ITS FRIENDS OR ARE HOSTILE TO U.S. AND ITS FRIENDS.

4. VISIT OF CHAVAN AND CONCLUDING JOINT STATEMENT PROVIDED FEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SURPRISES, BUT SERVED TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES DISCUSSED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN REAFFIRMING NON-ALIGNED STATUS BOTH COUNTRIES TOOK OBLIGATORY POSITIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS, PEACE IN INDIAN OCEAN WAS DULY WISHED FOR, AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS STRESSED AS CONTINUING FEATURE OF INDIAN-INDONESIA RELATIONSHIP. ONLY SURPRISE WAS LACK OF MENTION (AT LEAST PUBLICLY) OF EXPECTED AGREEMENT OF EXPANDING AIR SERVICE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES

MENTIONED IN REFTEL.
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